

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 9213

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 29690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF CIEC

REF: STATE 261712

1. CANADIAN DEL OFF CALLED ON MISSION OFF NOVEMBER 14 TO DISCUSS CIEC CO-CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION. DEL OFF REFERRED TO FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES' STATEMENT TO FRENCH MEDIA EVENING NOV. 13 THAT GOF BELIEVES INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY CO-CHAIRMAN SHOULD NOT COME FROM U.S., EC OR JAPAN' BUT MIGHT LOGICALLY COME FROM CANADA. DEL OFF ALSO REFERRED TO NOV. 14 LE MONDE ARTICLE SPECULATING THAT FRENCH POSITION ON CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION NOT BASED SO MUCH ON DESIRE TO THROW SOP TO CANADA BECAUSE OF EXCLUSION FROM RAMBOUILLET, BUT IS EFFORT TO COUNTER POSSIBLE U.S. CANDIDACY. CANADIAN DEL OFF ALSO SAID QUAI SOURCES HAD TOLD HIM PEREZ-GUERRERO HAD INFORMED FRENCH THAT GROUP OF 77 ARE OPPOSED TO U.S. AS CO-CHAIRMAN.

2. DEL OFF MADE SEVERAL POINTS:

A.) TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE CANADA WAS NOT IN ANY WAY SOLICITING CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. IN FACT, OTTAWA SAW MANY DISADVANTAGES TO ASSUMING SUCH ROLE AND HE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REJECT ANY PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD.

B.) GOC STRONGLY WANTS TO AVOID BECOMING EMBROILED
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IN POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN U.S. AND

FRANCE, PARTICULARLY IN A MATTER WHERE THERE NO REAL CANADIAN INTEREST AT STAKE.

C.) IT UNLIKELY GOC WILL TAKE FORMAL POSITION AT HIGH LEVEL ON THIS QUESTION UNTIL U.S. POSITION MADE CLEAR.

D.) ALTHOUGH HE HAD HEARD NOTHING OFFICIALLY TO EFFECT U.S. SEEKING POSITION, IT APPEARED THIS MUST BE CASE IN LIGHT OF FRENCH AND PEREZ-GUERRERO STATEMENTS.

E.) WAS U.S. SEEKING CO-CHAIRMANSHIP?

3. MISSION OFFICER REPLIED HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS QUESTION (NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO CONTENTS OF REFTEL). IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC CANADIAN DEL OFF REQUEST, HOWEVER, HE AGREED TO SEEK GUIDANCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE CONCERNING HOW MISSION CAN RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM CANADIANS AND OTHERS RE CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE.
TURNER

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